



Town of Blades  
OFFICE OF MAYOR & COUNCIL  
20 W Fourth Street  
Blades, Delaware 19973-4122  
(P) 302.629.7366 (F) 302.629.0199

***Town Council Meeting  
BVFC, East Fifth Street, Blades, DE  
7:00PM  
November 13, 2023***

Present: Mayor Robert Atkinson, Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr., Councilman William Stang, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams, Councilman Donald Trice, Councilman Garold Miller, Police Chief Martin Willey, Police Administrative Assistant Loretta Lynch, and Town Administrator Lisa Marks.

Mayor Robert Atkinson officially opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Opening Prayer by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes from the October 9, 2023, Town Council Meeting: Motion to accept in written form by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr.; Seconded by Councilman William Stang. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr., – Yes, Councilman William Stang – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes, Councilman Donald Trice – Yes, Councilman Garold Miller – Yes. Carried

Police Report – Submitted and read by Police Chief. Monthly statistics

BEDCO – No report at the time of this meeting.

P&Z – No meeting in November.

❖ Committee Reports:

- Housing/Code – Report submitted by Code Enforcement Officer, Marcus Trammell and read by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr. Monthly statistics
- Water report - Reports submitted by Public Works Supervisor Frank O'Day and read by Councilman William Stang. Monthly statistics
- Streets – Report submitted and read by Councilman Garold Miller. Blades 2023 Street Paving Project has been completed. Streets are being assessed for the Blades 2024 Street Paving Project. Assessing roads in the Cemetery. Christmas lights are being installed this week.
- Parks & Cemeteries – Report submitted and read by Councilwoman Nancy McAdams. Councilwoman McAdams would like to see grass planted in the spring along with removal of roots damaging the roads, repair the roads and receive bids for cemetery maintenance. The park has been winterized until Spring. Councilwoman McAdams is in the process of applying for a grant to purchase playground equipment, especially for handicapped children. Both lawn mowers are currently out of service. We will be pricing a new mower for next season. We are waiting for permits from the County to begin Hardin Hall.
- Police – Report submitted and read by Councilman Donald Trice. Councilman Trice meets with Chief Willey and Police Administrative Assistant daily.

Town Council Meeting Minutes



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Chief Willey is working 40 hours a week lite duty.

The remodel of the Town Hall has been a challenge. The heating system is up and running and DryTech finished the basement. We had to stop changing the lights to LED because of complaints that the lights were too bright, so we just did the Police Department and the hallway. The painter has painted 5 rooms and has 3 more to go. We have to change the color in one office to a darker shade. The new basement door is on. Replacement of the carpet with laminate flooring will start December 4<sup>th</sup>. Everything should be finished by the end of December.

The candidate that is attending the Dover class is doing very well. We get a report on him every week and he calls the Chief every Friday.

We have next year's Police budget done.

The Chief and I are keeping Lori busy with getting all the paperwork started for next year's grants. We found some more grants that the department is going to apply for and we hope we will get them. We are waiting on two grants. We should hear something within a few weeks.

Halloween on October 31<sup>st</sup> – The Police Department and the Blades Vol. Fire Co. were working together this year in handing out Halloween candy at the Fire Hall. We gave out about 35 pounds of loose candy and about 150 pre-bagged candy from Little Meadows residents. Everyone had a good time and we are looking forward to next Halloween. Thank you for all of your help.

The Chief and I have started a program where the Chief will come and speak to any group or organization on different topics at each group meeting. This is for the education for the residents of Blades to know what is going on in the Police Department and safety of the residents, along with what the residents of Blades can do to help us. This group meeting will not be for complaints. We want complaint issues to be brought up at a town meeting.

The Chief is planning another meet and greet with the residents of Blades in January or February at the Blades Fire Hall. The last one went very well. Refreshments will be served.

During Lori's search for Police grants for the Police Department, we found a grant that the Town can apply for to do the sidewalks in the Town of Blades, which we badly need. We will turn the information over to the Town Administrator, so she can start moving forward with it. I would like a monthly report on the progress of this grant.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> Blades Police Department and Blades Vol. Fire Company will be having Breakfast with Santa from 9am to noon. The breakfast is free and Santa will be giving out gifts to kids up to the age of 12 until we run out. Town residents only.

The Police Department has contacted DeIDOT for a traffic study for the Market Street and High Street intersection, due to the heavy traffic going through town.



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The Police Department would like to thank the Town Council, Blades Vol. Fire Company and Blades residents in supporting us with the functions that the Police Department has. Thank you for your support. I think these functions we have bring the Town and residents of Blades closer together as a Town.

- Mayor's Report – Report submitted and read by Mayor Robert Atkinson. Mayor Atkinson gave a brief report of his meetings and public appearances during the month of October.
- Town Administrator Report – Report submitted and read by Town Administrator Lisa Marks. Ms. Marks reported October door hanger and shutoffs for past due accounts, Weaver Real Estate Appraisal continues to appraise homes that have been recently built, residents that paid property taxes on a lot only instead of taxes on a recently built home will not have to pay back taxes. The Blades Kids Christmas Party will be Sunday, December 3, 2023, 1-3 pm at Blades Park. All local area kids between ages 3-10 years old are welcome. (Kids must be present) There will be crafts, toys, lunch and Santa (including pictures) for all to enjoy. The report was concluded by reminding everyone that they have the right to certain information, but the government has the right to charge and recover the cost of providing that which is sought. Under FOIA, we may and have charged a fee for the cost of providing that information. The most requested information is available on the Town's website. If you cannot find the information you are looking for, you have the right to file a FOIA request by filling out a simple form either on the website or in the office. If a FOIA request is filed, with the correct information, your request will be done at the Town's earliest convenience and you will be charged for using this service. In the past, this has been the Town's policy and continues to be.

❖ New Business:

- The Comp Plan Public Hearing – Town Administrator Lisa Marks, reviewed certification items and recommendations by the Office of State Planning Coordination as well as comments from the following agencies: State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Department of Transportation (DelDOT), Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA).

❖ Old Business:

- Moratorium Cannabis Businesses – Motion to approve the Moratorium, Cannabis Businesses and become effective immediately made by Councilman Donald Trice; Seconded by Councilman Garold Miller. Motion passed, Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr., – Yes, Councilman William Stang – Yes, Councilman Donald Trice – Yes, Councilman Garold Miller – Yes, Councilwoman Nancy McAdams – Yes. Carried

❖ Good of the Community

Citizen Gary Gallamore, 131 Meadow Drive, questioned the Council approving minutes without having several weeks to review, the validity of the June 12, 2023, swearing in of Council members, the referring to the Mayor and Vice-Mayor as such, instead of President and Vice-President of Council.



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Citizen Francine Kay, 306 East Fifth Street, expressed concerns about speeding vehicles on East Fifth Street and the possibility of removing the current speedbump and installing a bigger speedbump, along with the safety issue of minimal street lights with dim bulbs in Little Meadows.

Citizen Starr Kulikauski, 503 Highland Court, inquired if there is salt and sand on hand and if the equipment is ready, if sidewalks and streets can be sprayed for weeds, if the retention pond can be cleaned up a little and if back taxes continue to be collected.

Citizen Keith Redmond, 302 East Fifth Street, expressed concern over vehicles cutting through side streets.

Citizen Joseph Donahue, 120 Meadow Drive, questioned the availability and timing of receiving requested information and or documents, complained about a town employee that spoke to him as the town employee drove past him.

Citizen Barry Calhoun, 501 Highland Court, expressed concern that the DeIDOT traffic survey at High Street and Market Street may result in a 3-way or 4-way stop sign area.

Citizen Mary Knauss, 117 Meadow Drive, noted that she has a second new water pit lid.

Citizen Tomas Jones, 132 Meadow Drive, inquired about the progress of Cypress Landing (a proposed townhouse community).

Citizen Edward Knopf, 130 Meadow Drive, inquired about the development of a property that is not currently in town limits.

Entered into Executive Session: 9:07 pm

Exited Executive Session: 9:37 pm

Councilman William Stang motioned to adjourn the November 13, 2023, Blades Town Council Meeting, Seconded by Vice-Mayor Pierre Gaither, Sr.

Mayor Robert Atkinson adjourned the Blades Town Council Meeting at 9:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Marks  
Town Administrator